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A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER COVERING GLOBAL HAPPENINGS IN MARKETING/PROGRAMING OF HARDWARE/SOFTWARE FOR VIDEO MEDIA

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Field Report

VIDEOTAPES FOR VIEWING AND VIDEO TOYS FOR PLAYING drew an average of 80 persons a night to the THIRD WOMEN'S VIDEO FESTIVAL in N.Y. City, according to coordinators Susan Milano & Ann Eugenia Volkes. Those in attendance at the Women's Interart Center were not only able to view a variety of tapes but could also play games with video hardware & even swing on a swing.

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Audience members had a choice of "viewing environments" — two with pillows on the floor for reclining & one with chairs. Eight to ten tapes per night, some 33 in all, were shown Thurs., Fri. & Sat. nights for 3 wks. and at two "women-only" Sun. matinees. *VidNews* sampled five works at a Fri. show. Of these the best known was *"Gerald Ford's America - Chic to Sheik"* by TVTV and WNET, in which members of the former follow a society columnist through five Washington, D.C. parties and interview the "beautiful people." Even the Republicans in the audience were laughing. Lynda Rodolitz's *"Teaching Projects for the Winter Tours"* documents the preservation of an old firehouse in Minneapolis by the Twyla Tharp dance company and its use for dance activities. Also shown is the way videotape is utilized for dancers' practice sessions. *"Saliva Sisters"* and *"A Rare Beauty Near Yonkers, N.Y."* are both abstract works by Susan Wolfson. Each shows a lot of pulsating, undulating color patterns accompanied by electronic "music." At 7-min. long "A Rare Beauty..." proved interesting enough. The 20-min. "Saliva..." also holds the attention for about 7 min. Milano & Volkes showed VN one of their own tapes, *"Different Strokes for Different Folks."* It's an 18-min., b & w satire on pornography and its devotees. Included are some man-in-the-street interviews and a simultaneously-shown physical commentary.

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Most fun of all at WVF were the "toys." Susan Milano's Video Swing passed by three cameras in its arc so swingers could watch their images cross three monitors set in a wall ahead of them. All motions seemed wrong when trying to assemble jigsaw puzzles according to a monitor view of one's hands. Still harder was sketching one's profile on a sketchpad hung from the neck while watching camera's eye views of pad, drawing hand & profile in monitors. Results ranged from accurate to amoebic.